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For Immediate Release
June 30, 2020

Please Keep Your Pets Safe and Protected this Independence Day!

LONG BEACH, Calif. – The Fourth of July is one of the busiest times for the County of Los Angeles Department of Animal Care and Control (DACC). DACC would like to remind pet owners that extra precautions are necessary in order to protect pets during Fourth of July celebrations. "Fireworks can be terrifying for many pets, who may panic, harm themselves, or run away said Marcia Mayeda, Director of DACC, which counts the 4th of July and the days that follow as the busiest days of the year. "Pet owners are not always aware that their pets may react to the sounds and bright flashes of fireworks. This can trigger the fight or flight instinct."

To ensure the safety of your pets, here are a few tips:

- Make sure your pet has a collar and tags with your personal information. Include a phone number where you can be reached.
- Get your pet microchipped and please verify the information for that microchip is correct.
- Keep your pets indoors in a cool, comfortable place with some "white noise" distraction.
- Your pets may want to hide; allow them access to a room away from windows.
- If your dog is outside, make sure all gates are closed and locked and fencing is secure. Your dog may try to escape if he becomes startled.

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Lancaster ACC 5210 W. Avenue I Lancaster, CA 93536 (661) 940-4191 Baldwin Park ACC 4275 N. Elton Street Baldwin Park, CA 91706 (626) 962-3577

Palmdale ACC 38550 Sierra Highway Palmdale, CA 93550 (661) 575-2888 Carson/Gardena ACC 216 W. Victoria Street Gardena, CA 90248 (310) 523-9566 Castaic ACC 31044 N. Charlie Canyon Rd. Castaic, CA 91384 (661) 257-3191 Downey ACC 11258 S. Garfield Ave. Downey, CA 90242 (562) 940-6898

Administrative Office 5898 Cherry Avenue Long Beach, CA 90805 (800) 253-3555

- Do not take your pets outdoor when enjoying fireworks. The noise and other activities at these events can easily surprise and frighten your dog or cat.
- If you are leaving town for the weekend and cannot take your pets with you, make sure you leave them with someone who will be cautious during the Fourth of July celebrations.
- Talk to your veterinarian and get medications if needed.

If your pet does get out of the yard or is lost, post flyers in your neighborhood and check social media sites including Nextdoor, and Facebook as well as websites for all nearby shelters. Also, Shadow is a free app for reuniting lost and found dogs. For more information and details about what to do if your pet is lost, please visit our website at animalcare.lacounty.gov/tips-about-lost-found-pets.